

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 AF-06 IO-11 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5618

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 213

USMISSION NATO ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, MILI

SUBJ: ARMED FORCES MOVE TO BOLSTER FRIENDS AND WEAKEN
MILITARY OPPONENTS

REF: LISBON A-3

SUMMARY: ARMY LEADERS CONTINUED CAMPAIGN TO BOLSTER THOSE UNITS
WHICH SUPPORTED GOVERNMENT ON NOV 25. MEANWHILE ARMED FORCES
TOOK ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO WEAKEN ITS MILITARY OPPONENTS BY
RELEGATING GEN VASCO GONCALVES TO RESERVE STATUS AND BY OPENING
INQUIRY ON MAJ OTELO CARVALHO. END SUMMARY.

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1. EANES AND LOURENCO VISITS: ON JAN 9 ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GEN RAMALHO EANES VISITED ESTREMOZ CAVALRY UNIT WHICH PLAYED ROLE IN PUTTING DOWN NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT. HE HAD EARLIER VISITED COMMANDOS AND SANTAREM CAVALRY SCHOOL. LISBON MILITARY REGION COMMANDER (RML) GEN VASCO LOURENCO TOLD COMMANDOS DURING JAN 9 VISIT THAT SOME POLITICAL FORCES ARE ALREADY ATTEMPTING TO MAKE USE OF COMMANDOS THROUGH "CAMPAIGNS OF ADULATION." HE ALSO NOTED THAT COMMANDOS ARE NOW RESERVE UNIT TO ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, ALTHOUGH THEY ALSO CONTINUE UNDER RML COMMAND.

2. GONCALVES: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAS TENTATIVELY DECIDED TO PLACE FORMER PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES IN RESERVE STATUS. GONCALVES HAS BEEN WITHOUT ASSIGNMENT SINCE DECEMBER WHEN HE WAS RELIEVED OF HIS POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF HIGHER MILITARY STUDIES.

3. OTELO: ARMY GENERAL STAFF SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED JAN 9 THAT FORMER COPCON COMMANDER OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO WAS UNDER INVESTIGATION. SPOKESMAN STATED THAT IMMEDIATE OBJECT OF INVESTIGATION WAS OTELO'S LETTER TO LISBON NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED DEC 17 (REFAIR).

4. COMMENT: ABOVE MEASURES DEMONSTRATE FURTHER PROGRESS IN CAMPAIGN TO STRENGTHEN REGIME'S FRIENDS AND WEAKEN ITS ENEMIES IN THE ARMED FORCES. VISITS OF GENS EANES AND LOURENCO ARE INTENDED TO BOLSTER THOSE UNITS WHICH SUPPORTED GOVERNMENT ON NOV 25. LOURENCO'S WARNING ALSO SEEKS TO BLOCK EFFORTS OF FAR RIGHT TO CAPITALIZE ON DEMONSTRATED STRENGTH OF COMMANDOS. MEANWHILE, ARMED FORCES HAVE TAKEN FURTHER STEPS TO CUT THE GROUND OUT FROM LEFTIST MILITARY. RELEGATION OF GONCALVES TO RESERVE STATUS REMOVES HIM FROM EASY ACCESS TO OFFICERS AND TROOPS. OTELO'S RATHER LAME EFFORT TO LAUNCH HIMSELF AGAIN AS PUBLIC FIGURE BROUGHT QUICK REACTION FROM ARMED FORCES STAFF. IN HIS RECENT ENCOUNTERS WITH PRESS, OTELO HAS ANSWERED THAT REGULATIONS PREVENTED HIM FROM SPEAKING.
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